



## An official American Thoracic Society workshop report: Climate change and human health

---

**Author(s):** Pinkerton KE, Rom WN, Akpinar-Elci M, Balmes JR, Bayram H, Brandli O, Hollingsworth JW, Kinney PL, Margolis HG, Martin WJ, Sasser EN, Smith KR, Takaro TK, American Thoracic Society Environmental Health Policy C

**Year:** 2012

**Journal:** Proceedings of The American Thoracic Society. 9 (1): 8-Mar

---

### Abstract:

This document presents the proceedings from the American Thoracic Society Climate Change and Respiratory Health Workshop that was held on May 15, 2010, in New Orleans, Louisiana. The purpose of the one-day meeting was to address the threat to global respiratory health posed by climate change. Domestic and international experts as well as representatives of international respiratory societies and key U.S. federal agencies convened to identify necessary research questions concerning climate change and respiratory health and appropriate mechanisms and infrastructure needs for answering these questions. After much discussion, a breakout group compiled 27 recommendations for physicians, researchers, and policy makers. These recommendations are listed under main issues that the workshop participants deemed of key importance to respiratory health. Issues include the following: (1) the health impacts of climate change, with specific focus on the effect of heat waves, air pollution, and natural cycles; (2) mitigation and adaptation measures to be taken, with special emphasis on recommendations for the clinical and research community; (3) recognition of challenges specific to low-resource countries when coping with respiratory health and climate change; and (4) priority research infrastructure needs, with special discussion of international needs for cooperating with present and future environmental monitoring and alert systems.

**Source:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1513/pats.201201-015ST>

### Resource Description

#### Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

#### Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

Health Professional, Policymaker, Researcher

#### Early Warning System:

resource focus on systems used to warn populations of high temperatures, extreme weather, or other

# Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

elements of climate change to prevent harm to health

A focus of content

## **Exposure :**

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Ecosystem Changes, Human Conflict/Displacement, Meteorological Factors, Temperature

**Air Pollution:** Allergens, Particulate Matter

**Temperature:** Extreme Heat

## **Geographic Feature:**

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

## **Geographic Location:**

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

## **Health Co-Benefit/Co-Harm (Adaption/Mitigation):**

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with greenhouse gases

A focus of content

## **Health Impact:**

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Respiratory Effect

## **Intervention:**

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

A focus of content

## **Medical Community Engagement:**

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

## **Mitigation/Adaptation:**

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation, Mitigation

**Population of Concern:** A focus of content

## **Population of Concern:**

## Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Low Socioeconomic Status

### Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion, Policy/Opinion

### Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified